

## Four Scientific Expeditions Start Out to Capture the Huge Neomyodon if He Exists.

**T**he neomyodon, a giant sloth that measured eighteen feet in length, is believed to be still alive. A live neomyodon would be the rarest and most curious animal on earth. No less than four expeditions have visited Southern Patagonia for the purpose of studying the neomyodon.

The latest of these expeditions is one headed by young Henry S. H. Cavendish, member of the Duke of Devonshire's family and the bearer of one of the greatest names in England. Recently he acquired fame as an admirer of Edna May, the mermaid chorus girl, who has won success in London. It is still considered probable that he will marry her when she obtains a divorce.

In the meantime Mr. Cavendish has set his heart on a neomyodon. He has sworn that he will have the beast dead or alive. He has gone to Patagonia with a small but splendidly equipped expedition. He takes with him a couple of elephant rifles of the biggest calibre, with which he uses explosive bullets.

Mr. Cavendish has already established a reputation as a hunter and explorer in South America and elsewhere. He has shot elephants, lions, tigers, rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses.

It is not thought that Mr. Cavendish will run much danger in tackling a neomyodon. The only difficulty will be that of killing the animal when it is found. There is no doubt that the neomyodon would prove more difficult to kill than any existing creature. Its bones are so heavy that it can only walk with extreme slowness, and depends for a living on trees, which it is strong enough to pull down. It is for these reasons that Mr. Cavendish has taken with him elephant rifles and explosive bullets.

The neomyodon is a near relative of the megatherium, which is the most ancient and peculiar of extinct monsters. The

Exactly How the Princess of Wales Looks When She Receives American Girls at the Queen's Drawing Room.

(From her latest photograph, authorized to be published by Her Highness.)



Sketch of the Cave in Patagonia Where the Skin, Bones and Flesh of the Neomyodon Were Found.

Professor Marsh's Reconstruction of the Prehistoric Neomyodon.



wolf.

Dr. Moreno went to London with the skin and a conference of scientists was held upon the subject. The conclusion reached was that the animal was a genuine neomyodon, that it had died within comparatively recent times, and that it was probable that living specimens were still in existence.

The identity of the animal was further assured by the Swedish explorer, Nordenskjöld, who cleared out the detritus encumbering the grotto and recovered the entire skeleton of the creature. The cartilage of the frame was still in existence, showing the animal could not have been dead very long.

Young Cavendish, fired by the suggestion that a neomyodon might still be alive, started in pursuit of the beast. At first he concealed the object of his expedition, but when he arrived in Buenos Ayres, where so much had been heard of the strange monster, he was obliged to confess his purpose.

He will begin his investigations near Jakes Musters and Colhuapi, in the district of Chubut, in the Patagonian pampas. Here the geological formation is very ancient and the possibility of finding animals elsewhere extinct is considerable.

The neomyodon had bones more massive than those of the elephant. Its hind limbs were three times the thickness of those of an elephant, and its tail was proportionately heavy. It was provided with powerful claws and a long tongue. Its peculiar construction makes it very slow of motion. It could not climb trees, but it lived by rooting them up or pulling down the branches of very large ones. Here is a famous naturalist's picture of the neomyodon taking a meal:

"It is not difficult to form a mental picture of the great beast lying siege to a tree and to conceive the massive frame of the neomyodon convulsed with the mighty wrestling, every vibrating fibre reacting upon its bony attachment with the force of a hundred giants; extraordinary must be the strength and proportions of the tree if, when rocked to and fro, to right and left, in such an embrace, it can long withstand the efforts of its assailant."

"It yields, the roots fly up, the earth is

scattered wide upon the surrounding foliage and the tree comes down with a thundering crash, cracking and snapping the great boughs like glass. Then the coveted food is within reach and the giant reaps the reward of his herculean labors."

The megatherium became extinct ages ago from the lack of suitable nourishment and the drought common in South America. The neomyodon, it has been supposed, also perished at a later day from the same causes. If there are any now left alive, they are but belated survivors of their race.

These gigantic creatures were nearly identical in form with the modern sloths, those little creatures whose name was given to them on account of their supposed idleness, but who are really models of industry. The monsters had the same sort of claws, the same long tongues and the same long, stupid looking heads as the sloths, but on account of their great weight they could not climb trees but only root them up.

The little sloths survived on account of their superior agility and ability to find nourishment.

Speaking of the region where Mr. Cavendish has gone, and where the bones of the megatherium and so many of his relatives have been found in great abundance, the great Darwin wrote:

"The beds containing the fossil skeletons consist of stratified gravel and reddish mud; a proof that the elevation of the land has been inconsiderable since the great quadrupeds' wandering over the surrounding plains and the external features of the country were nearly the same then as now."

"The number of the remains of these quadrupeds embedded in the vast estuary deposits which form the Pampas and cover the granite rocks of Banda Oriental must be extraordinarily great. I believe that a straight line drawn in any direction through the country would cut through some skeleton or bones."

"We may conclude that the whole area of the Pampas is one wide sepulchre of these extinct gigantic quadrupeds."

Darwin, it will be seen, indicates that the region is of the most ancient geological aspect and a peculiarly likely place to find survivors of an elsewhere extinct race.

## THE END, AT LAST, OF THE FAMOUS "ENDLESS CHAIN."

**T**HE endless chain is broken at last. Ever since Bible days the name of Babylon has been connected with wonder, noise and confusion.

Down on Long Island, thirty-six miles from New York, is another Babylon, and, like the Babylon of olden days, this modern town has for over a year been upheaved, demoralized, wonder struck!

And why?

All on account of Miss Nathalie Schenck! What did she do? Run away? Try to commit suicide? Shoot a burglar? Steal a child? Elope?

No! None of these things. There is nothing sensational about Nathalie Schenck, and still she has made such a sensation in an innocent fashion that her grandfather, Banker Morgan, a fine old gentleman of the old school, has sent her to Europe to get rid of the turbulence of notoriety that unwittingly she brought upon herself.

She started the endless chain.

Last week, for the first time in thirteen months, there was no letter in the Babylon (L. I.) Post Office for Miss Nathalie Schenck.

Thirteen months ago Miss Schenck wrote four seemingly harmless letters to four of her school friends. In each she asked for a dime and asked each friend to ask four other friends to send a dime.

It began that marvellous endless chain which has been talked about as far as the east is from the west wherever the English language is spoken.

Miss Nathalie Schenck is a beautiful girl of fifteen, nearly six feet high, with broad, noble shoulders, a symmetrical waist, a fair face, steady, gray eyes, crowned by thick masses of blond hair, swept carelessly off her forehead by a strong and impatient hand. She dresses plainly, but well, and often drives through the quiet streets of Babylon wearing a big black hat, which sets off her wonderful tawny hair.

Now for the facts in the letter and the noise it made in Babylon and two worlds.

Nathalie Schenck is a patriotic girl. Her tender heart bled for the soldiers in the Cuban war, and her quick brain devised a plan to help them. She would raise \$4,000

Letters Enough to Fill 32 Barrels, and Dimes Enough to Reach 800 Feet In the Air, an Absolutely Unparalleled Freak of Patriotism.

to buy them an ice plant. Hence the letter. She easily raised the \$4,000. The soldiers got their ice plant, the Cuban war ended, the "Spanish mule" fell wounded unto death, and Santiago surrendered, but still this girl on Long Island kept on receiving basketfuls of letters every day. Her people became alarmed. It was a serious thing. They came to stop it, but no,

sent her there to escape all this unwelcome notoriety.

"Her plan was just a simple-hearted act of patriotism, and it was at first an unending source of delight. You see that barn has been both a bank and a post office. We tried in the beginning to open and read the letters in this room, but soon this place could not hold them. As many as 15,000 came in one day. We had letters from England, one containing a check for \$100; from France, South America, Italy, California, etc. Nathalie got twenty girls in that very barn to sort the letters. Finally we had baskets filled with dimes."

"The postmaster will tell you that he had to employ an extra hand (so he did half an hour later); the bank used extra hands; they put another man on the train. I employed the services of a watchman to guard the house. We all became nervous and Nathalie hated to go out, for every one stared at her."

"The expense was surprisingly little. Different publishing firms in New York sent representatives here to get addresses, and we sold thousands of them. Some of our replies would come from an unknown Western town, and the publishers were glad to obtain their addresses. So the actual expense to us all through this was not more than \$250."

"You may say that in your paper, we tried to stop it a few weeks after it was started. Nathalie begged all her friends to stop sending dimes, but it was all in vain. It went on and on until we had made \$25,000, and still it has been kept going on in a quiet way."

"Now the chain has been broken. 'Gone broke,' you might say," added Mr. Morgan, with a quiet smile. "I hope so sincerely."

The endless chain has done more than provide a large surplus over the \$4,000 required for the ice plant. It has made Miss Nathalie Schenck the most popular girl in New York. Songs have been written to her and poems have been written about her. Several proposals of marriage have been sent her through the mails by men she has never seen and who know her only through the newspapers. The proposals so frightened the girl that she wishes there had never been an "endless chain."



### QUEEN VICTORIA'S UNDERSTUDY.

**I**T IS nowadays a common thing to hear that an American girl has been presented to Queen Victoria. As a matter of fact, women are rarely presented to Queen Victoria in person. Within the last ten years the Queen has not held ten drawing rooms, as the occasions are called at which presentations are made.

The Princess of Wales takes the place of the Queen at nearly all the drawing rooms. It is officially declared that she takes the place of the Queen, and that presentations to her are equivalent to presentations to the Queen.

The Sunday Journal prints a picture of the Princess as she appears at a drawing room. This is the Princess just as she is seen by American society girls when they have realized the highest social ambition of their lives. When you have looked at the Princess in the Sunday Journal you have been practically presented at court. The Princess herself has authorized the publication of this picture.

The girl who is presented to the Princess merely kisses her hand and bows to her and to the other princesses who accompany her, and then backs out of the room as quickly as possible.



### DOGS TRAINED TO THROW SOMERSAULTS.

**A**LTHOUGH it is by no means an uncommon thing to see a dog throw a somersault after somersault in stage performances, it is a somewhat remarkable fact that few people know how such animals can be taught such a difficult feat.

Ask a friend how he thinks a dog can be initiated into the mysteries of somersault throwing and you will receive some very curious suggestions.

As there is more than one way of cooking a goose, so there is more than one method of teaching a dog to throw somersaults. But the most practical and thorough manner is to fasten a cord around the body of the animal—close to the forelegs—and two people should hold the ends of the cord on either side of the unfortunate dog. A third party, armed with a stout rope, takes a position immediately in front of the canine acrobat, and with a measured and masterly stroke, dogs the floor at close quarters to the dog's nose.

At each stroke of the rope the dog springs backward, and that movement is the trainer's golden opportunity. As the dog springs backward, the rope passing under its body is jerked upward, and although the first few attempts may prove futile, the somersault is acquired in course of time. An intelligent dog soon learns of this order of things, and throws somersaults without the assistance of ropes.